



the

Little

Green

Songbook

for forests and their defenders

This songbook is dedicated to all forests everywhere, their inhabitants, and their defenders – especially Tortuguita, who defended the Weelaunee Forest with their life.

To those who would cut down a forest to build a training camp for murderers: you reap what you sow.

Introduction

The Weelaunee Forest, also known as the South River Forest or the Atlanta Forest, was stewarded by the Muscogee Creek peoples until being stolen by settlers in the early 1800s for use as a plantation. For much of the 20th century, it housed a prison farm, using the forced labor of inmates as a stand-in for that of slaves (much like the U.S. prison system as a whole). It took until 1990 for the farm to be fully abandoned and for wilderness to return.

In 2021, the City of Atlanta announced plans to build a sprawling police training center with a mock city for urban combat simulations, threatening up to 300 acres of forest and continuing a legacy of using this land to brutalize its Black populace.

The “Cop City” project has been fiercely opposed since its inception. In an armed raid on a forest camp and treesit in January 2023, police shot and killed a forest defender named Manuel Terán, better known as Tortuguita.

We were inspired to create this songbook in the aftermath of Tortuguita’s murder. Standing at a memorial vigil, we wished we had more ways to express our mourning, our defiance, and our commitment to each other. Chanting with a crowd can be a powerful feeling; even more so to sing with them.

So: a humble offering for gatherings, demonstrations, walks through the forest, or wherever you feel inclined to sing.

Tortuguita vive, ahora y siempre.

Using This Book

Each song in this book is written using an existing melody, noted below the song title. The QR code for each song leads to an example of the melody. Sheet music for the first section of each song is included.

For a digital version of this book, plus printable handouts for individual songs, see: nextworld.love/songbook

Defending the Forest

Visit stopcopcitysolidarity.org for info on what you can do to defend the forest and support forest defenders. There are lots of ways to make an impact even if you’re far from Atlanta.

As of writing this in February 2023, there are several forest defenders imprisoned on charges related to the defense of the Weelaunee Forest. Send them some letters, artwork, songs, or whatever else you can think of; your support means the world.

About

First Edition, February 2023

This book may be altered, reproduced, and/or distributed by forest defenders, their friends, and anyone who wants to stop Cop City.

If you have a song to contribute to future editions of this book, get in touch: hello@nextworld.love

Bella Ciao

MELODY: BELLA CIAO

wrld.pw/bc
Originally a protest song of women working on Italian rice farms, later popularized by anti-fascist resistance fighters of the 1940s and spread through the world. Another version from the Weelaunee Forest predates this book and is reproduced in the next section.

I wake one morning
To see the sunrise
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
From our treetop
I see them marching
To destroy what life has grown

So wish me luck now
For I must leave you
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
I will not falter
My heart is faithful
To the trees I long to roam

In every moment
They sow destruction
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
With tools of ruin
And plans of power
Over the world they crush below

$\text{♩} = 100$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 100. It consists of four staves. The first staff is in treble clef, and the second, third, and fourth staves are in bass clef. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'I wake one morn-ing To see the sun-rise O bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao! Ciao! Ciao! From our tree-top I see them march-ing To de-destroy what life, has grown So wish me luck now For I must leave you O bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao! Ciao! Ciao! I will not fal-ter My heart is faith-ful To the trees I long to roam'.

So when I meet them
In dark or daylight
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
For the forest
Alive and joyous
They will reap what they have sown

And if by sunrise
Our tree has fallen
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
More will grow there
Now and forever
To the earth I swear this oath

[REPEAT FINAL 3 LINES]

Bella Ciao (Alternate)

MELODY: BELLA CIAO

world.pwv/bca



This rendition of Bella Ciao was heard floating around the Weelaunee Forest in 2022. Judging by the lyrics, it's most likely based on the version performed by Chumbawamba on their 2005 album A Singsong and a Scrap.

The world is waking
Outside my window
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
Drags my senses
Into the sunlight
For there are things that I must do

Wish me luck now
I have to leave you
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
With my friends now
In the forest
We're going to shake the gates of hell

$\text{♩} = 100$

The world is wak-ing Out-side my win-dow O bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao! Ciao! Ciao!

Drags my sens-es In-to the sun-light For there are things that I must do

Wish me luck now I have to leave you O bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao, bell-a ciao! Ciao! Ciao!

With my friends now In the for-est We're going to shake the gates of hell

And I will tell them
We will tell them
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
That Weelaunee
Is not for franchise
And wish the bastards drop down dead

Next time you see me
I may be smiling
O bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao
I'll be in prison
Or on the TV
I'll say the forest called me here

Down In the Forest

MELODY: MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA

worldjw/dm



The melody might bother the sort of person who's still mad about losing the American Civil War. Good for marching.

Bring me to the barricades, it's time we have no fear
Murderers and tyrants threaten all we hold so dear
Now the final moment of our victory is near
Down in the forests of Georgia

Hurrah! Hurrah! We sing from every tree
Hurrah! Hurrah! We all can live so free
They will hear our chorus from Atlanta to the sea
Down in the forests of Georgia

Breaking from a prison leapt a wilderness untamed
All the life of earth rejoiced, no longer kept in chains
From the hands of jailers we will see this land reclaimed
Down in the forests of Georgia

Hurrah! Hurrah! We sing from every tree
Hurrah! Hurrah! We all can live so free
They will hear our chorus from Atlanta to the sea
Down in the forests of Georgia

$\text{♩} = 110$

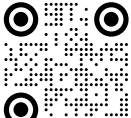
Bring me to the barr-i-cades it's time we have no fear Mur-der-ers and ty-rants threat-en all we hold so dear
Now the fin-al mo-ment of our vic-tor-y is near Down in the for-ests of Geor-gia Hur-rah! Hur-rah!
We sing from ev-ery tree Hur-rah! Hur-rah! We all can live so free
They will hear our chor-us from At-lan-ta to the sea Down in the for-ests of Geor-gia

Engines of destruction now have woken up in flames
Plans of devastation have no power to remain
All their walls are swept away like ashes in the rain
Down in the forests of Georgia

Hurrah! Hurrah! We sing from every tree
Hurrah! Hurrah! We all can live so free
They will hear our chorus from Atlanta to the sea
Down in the forests of Georgia

Our Defenders Will Not Fail

MELODY: MINER'S LIFEGUARD

 *Of all the songs in this book, we consider this one a personal favorite. It's a lot of fun to shout the chorus. The rendition of Miner's Lifeguard by Pete Seeger & The Almanac Singers provides a solid example of the melody.*

When the forest is in danger
Cheaply sold and stripped away
For the plans of warlike powers
There we venture, being brave
All our lives are linked together
For our world we must prevail
We will hang onto each other
Our defenders will not fail

CHORUS

In the forest, stand together
Keep the cops off every trail
We will hang onto each other
Our defenders will not fail

Under rocks and in the rivers
In the trees, beneath the sky
All our friends are out there working
For the end of foul designs
They won't crawl for judge or jury
Wildness answers to no jail
We will hang onto each other
Our defenders will not fail

$\text{♩} = 80$



When the for - est is in dan-ger Cheap-ly sold and stripped a - way
For the plans of war-like pow-ers There we ven - ture be-ing brave
All our lives are linked to-geth-er For our world we must pre-vail
We will hang on - to each oth-er Our de - fend - ers will not fail
In the for - est stand to-geth-er Keep the cops off ev-ery trail
We will hang on - to each oth-er Our de - fend - ers will not fail

[REPEAT CHORUS]

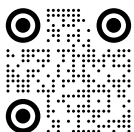
Keep these words now clear in memory:
With our roots we stand our ground
Where one falls, now ten more rising
To their memories we are bound
Forest once, now and forever
Victory! We will prevail
We will hang onto each other
Our defenders will not fail

[REPEAT CHORUS once or twice]

The Ash Grove

MELODY: THE ASH GROVE

g8e7/wvcf/ta7



A beautiful Welsh tune that predates this book by at least 200 years, with roughly as many different sets of lyrics in that time. This one is inspired by the version sung by long-lost folk singer Connie Converse.

Down yonder green valley where streamlets meander
When twilight is fading, I pensively roam

Or at the bright noontide in solitude wander
Amid the dark shades of the lonely ash grove

'Tis there, where the blackbird is cheerfully singing
Each warbler enchants with his notes from the tree

Oh, then little think I of sorrow or sadness
The ash grove entrancing spells beauty for me

The ash grove how graceful, how plainly 'tis speaking
The wind through it playing its music for me

Whenever the light through its branches is breaking
A host of kind faces is gazing on me

♩ = 100

Down yon - der green vall - ey where stream - lets me - an - der
Or at the bright noon - tide in sol - i - tude wan - der
Oh then li - ttle think I of sor - row or sad - ness

Fine

When twi - light is fa - ding I pen - sive - ly roam
A - mid the dark shades of the lone - ly ash grove
The ash grove en - tranc - ing spells beau - ty for me

'Tis there where the black - bird is cheer - ful - ly sing - ing

D.C. al Fine


Each war - bier en - chants with his notes from the tree

The days of my springtime again are before me
Each step wakes a memory as freely I roam

With soft whispers laden its leaves rustle o'er me
My heart knows the ash grove alone is my home

We Shall Not be Moved

MELODY: WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED

 *From the tradition of Black American spirituals. Sung in the labor movements of the 1930s and the civil rights movements of the 1950s and 60s, among others. Can be sung in a call-and-response format, and it's easy to write new lyrics.*

worldjwv/wshnbm

We shall not, we shall not be moved
We shall not, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

When cops come to the forest, we shall not be moved
When cops come to the forest, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

With bulldozers or teargas, we shall not be moved
With bulldozers or teargas, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

We will stand and fight together, we shall not be moved
We will stand and fight together, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

$\text{♩} = 100$



We shall not, we shall not be moved! We shall not, we shall not be moved! Just like a tree that's stand-ing by the wa-ter, we shall not be moved!_

The forest is behind us, we shall not be moved
The forest is behind us, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

From roots up to the branches, we shall not be moved
From roots up to the branches, we shall not be moved
Just like a tree that's standing by the water
We shall not be moved

[REPEAT INTRO or add new lines]

*Six songs
for gatherings, demonstrations,
walks through the forest,
or wherever you feel
inclined to sing.*

In solidarity with the Weelaunee Forest
and its defenders.

STOPCOPCITYSOLIDARITY.ORG